breadwinner occurring whilst he or she is in the age group of 18 to 64 years. Annapurna Scheme aims at providing food security to meet the requirement of those senior citizens who, though eligible, have remained uncovered under the NOAPS. Under this Scheme 10 Kgs of food grains per month are provided free of cost to the beneficiary.

Finance Minister in budget speech for the year 2006-07 has announced an increase in pension under NOAPS from Rs. 75/- per month per beneficiary to Rs. 200/- per month per beneficiary.

(c) As per guidelines of the Scheme, the States are required to furnish quarterly physical and financial progress report in the given format by the 15th of month of the following quarter. Non reporting of the physical and financial progress reports is constructed as lack of progress and therefore, may result in non-release of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for the last quarter of the financial year. At least 50% of the ACA funds released must be utilized by the States and UTs by 31st December of the financial year so that the ACA for the remaining three months of that financial year, i.e. January, February and March could be released. Before release of funds for the last quarter, the State/UTs shall also furnish Utilization Certificate for the funds released during the previous financial year to the Ministry of Rural Development.

To review the programme and to implement the Programme in more effective manner, meetings of Nodal Secretaries of States dealing with NSAP and Annapurna are organized by the Ministry of Rural Development from time to time. Also review of NOAPS, NFBS and Annapurna has been made part of the agenda of District Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees.

Schemes under NSAP

2553. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the schemes evolved under the National Social Assistance Programme announced in Budget 2006-07;

(b) the funds provided for each of the Schemes and how far they have been implemented in various States; and

(c) what is the estimated number of beneficiaries under each scheme, all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development had been administering the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) consisting of National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) and the National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) as Centrally Sponsored Scheme until the programme was transferred to the State Plan along with the Annapurna Scheme *w.e.f.* 2002-03. Under NOAPs, Central assistance of Rs. 200 per month has to be provided per beneficiary for destitutes above 65 years. Under NFBS, Rs. 10000/- has to be given to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) bereaved household on the death of the primary breadwinner. The death of such a primary breadwinner occurring whilst he or she is in the age group of 18 to 64 years. Annapurna Scheme aims at providing food security to meet the requirement of those senior citizens who, though eligible, have remained uncovered under the NOAPS. Under this Scheme 10 kgs of food grains per month are provided free of cost to the beneficiary.

Finance Minister in his budget speech for the year 2006-07 has announced an increase in pension under National Old Age Pension (NOAPS) from Rs. 75/- per month per beneficiary to Rs. 200/- per month per beneficiary.

(b) and (c) After transfer of the scheme to the State Plan since 2002-03, the funds are being allocated to the States/UTs by the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Rural Development and released by Ministry of Finance on the recommendation of the Ministry of Rural Development as Additional Central Assistance (ACA). A combined allocation is made for all the three schemes *viz.* National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS), National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and Annapurna. The ACA provided to the States/UTs under NSAP and Annapurna are to be utilized by the States/UTs as Welfare Schemes of NOAPS, NFBS or free foodgrains to the aged by taking one or two or all of the three schemes or in any other combination in accordance with their own priorities and needs. The funds provided for the year 2005-06 and 2006-07 and the number of beneficiaries reported by the States is enclosed at statement-I and Statement-II.

Statement-I

Number of Beneficiaries reported by the States/UTs during 2005-06

Sl. No.	States/UTs	No.of Beneficiaries reported		
		NOAPS	NFBS	Annapurna
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	466000	16492	93200
2	Bihar	820193	27920	148483
3	Chhattisgarh	183893	11472	25337
4	Goa	3451	282	NR
5	Gujarat	63550	7718	20358
6	Haryana	95800	4500	NR
7	Himachal Pradesh	22700	3040	5242
8	Jammu & Kashmir	64708	3110	NR
9	Jharkhand	166236	3744	54939
10	Karnataka	488130	NR	NR
11	Kerala	141768	11744	44980
12	Madhya Pradesh	683680	30551	NR
13	Maharashtra	659429	18302	120000
14	Orissa	493381	4635	NR
15	Punjab	45853	1290	NR
16	Rajasthan	144555	10426	119162
17	Tamil Nadu	481028	48977	71974
18	Uttar Pradesh	1461481	30500	NR
19	Uttarakhand	64246	3000	NR
20	West Bengal	451579	13296	67611
SUB TOTAL		7001661	250999	771286
North Eastern States				
21	Arunachal Pradesh	12923	260	NR

22	Assam	614513	15539	26640
23	Manipur	43619	2024	22695
24	Meghalaya	33776	618	9263
25	Mizoram	10525	400	2583
26	Nagaland	30051	680	NR
27	Sikkim	14869	157	2500
28	Tripura	83972	1460	17351
	SUB-TOTAL	844248	21138	81032
UTs				
29	A&N Islands	665	NR	NR
30	Chandigarh	4497	157	NR
31	D&N Haveli	1086	134	NR
32	Daman & Diu	372	NR	NR
33	NCT Delhi	150000	400	NR
34	Lakshadweep	32	NR	NR
35	Pondicherry	NR	NR	NR
	SUB TOTAL	156652	691	
GRAND TOTAL		8002561	272828	852318

NR: Not Reported

Statement-II

Funds Allocated and Released to the States/UTs during 2005-06 and 2006-07

(Rs. in Lakh)

		Year: 2005-06		Year: 2006-07	
Sl. No.	States/UTs	Combined Allocation For 3 schemes	Total Release	Combined Allocation for 3 schemes	Total Release
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	6746.70	6746.70	14882.08	11161.55

1	2	3	4	5	6
2	Bihar	13213.06	13213.06	36002.21	27001.65
3	Chhattisgarh	2890.35	2880.35	7321.38	5491.05
4	Goa	66.95	66.95	66.95	50.22
5	Gujarat	3582.50	3582.50	5601.09	4200.82
6	Haryana	1311.73	1311.73	3296.24	2472.19
7	Himachal Pradesh	547.17	547.17	1389.07	1041.81
8	Jammu & Kashmir	735.10	735.10	1716.73	1287.54
9	Jharkhand	4615.34	4615.34	12746.83	9560.13
10	Karnataka	5207.76	5207.76	11238.58	8428.94
11	Kerala	2874.17	2874.17	5040.98	3780.74
12	Madhya Pradesh	7649.45	7649.45	17387.81	13040.85
13	Maharashtra	10234.03	10234.03	22213.90	16660.43
14	Orissa	5899.77	5899.77	17021.70	12766.29
15	Punjab	897.89	897.89	1601.91	1201.43
16	Rajasthan	3773.48	3754.48	8533.25	6399.93
17	Tamil Nadu	7043.03	7043.03	13159.75	9869.82
18	Uttar Pradesh	19851.70	19851.70	50432.59	37824.45
19	Uttarakhand	1224.26	1224.26	3217.40	2413.06
20	West Bengal	7993.56	7993.56	18914.86	14186.15
	SUB TOTAL	106358.00	106329.00	251785.31	188839.05
North Eastern States					
21	Arunachal Pradesh	415.46	415.46	759.10	569.33
22	Assam	8218.02	8218.02	19717.54	14788.16
23	Manipur	628.92	628.92	1320.90	990.69
24	Meghalaya	684.72	684.72	1479.85	1109.88
25	Mizoram	195.85	195.85	345.30	258.99
26	Nagaland	447.02	447.02	1016.70	762.54
27	Sikkim	190.69	190.69	378.18	283.65

1	2	3	4	5	6
28	Tripura	1119.32	1119.32	2386.93	1790.19
	SUB-TOTAL	11900.00	11900.00	27404.50	20553.43
UTs					
29	A&N Islands	20.00	20.00	78.42	71.89
30	Chandigarh	16.00	16.00	16.00	14.67
31	D&N Haveli	15.00	15.00	78.42	71.89
32	Daman & Diu	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.67
33	NCT Delhi	567.00	567.00	567.00	519.75
34	Lakshadweep	5.00	5.00	5.60	5.73
35	Pondicherry	115.00	115.00	115.00	105.42
	SUB TOTAL	742.00	742.00	864.44	792.41
GRAND TOTAL		119000.00	118971.00	280054.25	210184.89

E-Choupal initiative

2554. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a private company, with the help of 'e-Choupal initiative' is endeavouring to bring development in the rural areas;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken up such measures of public-private partnership, that can transform lives and landscapes in rural India;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what steps are being taken to enhance IT awareness in rural areas and the allocation made therefor during the last three years, year-wise and the actuals of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) ITC limited, a private sector company, under its 'e-Choupal initiative', provides an alternate market to the farmer to take decision to sell his agricultural produce on the basis of the information made available about the rates in different wholesale markets.